

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: VA07.324162

Thomas and Anne Kelly

Villette

Lisheenkyle

Athenry

Galway

H65 EF96

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 25 May 2026

Re: Observation to Planning Permission for a 220kV Substation and 220kV underground electricity cabling connection to the existing Cashla 220kV substation, Athenry.

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our residence lies along the proposed route of the 220kV underground electricity cable on the L7108 in Lisheenkyle East. We are 1.86km from the proposed site of the new 220kV substation.

My husband Thomas, age 86, a retired farmer, has lived and worked in Lisheenkyle all his life. I have lived here since we married 53 years ago. We raised our six children in what was then a tranquil rural countryside and four of our children with their families still live in the area. Athenry is our local town and we go there on a regular basis for shopping, to attend our parish Church and the Primary Care Centre among other things. We are very concerned about the disruption and long-term consequences resulting from the insertion of this high voltage electricity cable through our local area for us and for our children's families. This proposed development will close our local road for months, denying our normal access to the town, forcing us to take a much longer route. Excavations work and the likely use of rock-breakers will pose a risk of damage to our home and boundary walls and hedges. The proposed development will permanently leave in our local rural road a dangerous high voltage electricity cable passing by our home, affecting all further local development, and exposing us and our local community to on-going levels of background electro-magnetic radiation with associated health risks.

Long-term impacts

We are concerned about the long-term impact of placing a permanent high-voltage infrastructure beside our home and within the local rural road. There has been no direct engagement with us by the developers regarding compensation for any damage this may cause to our property, no clear explanation of future maintenance of the infrastructure, and any other long-term impacts of this infrastructure.

Road closure

We use the L7108 and L3103 roads several times a week to access the local town of Athenry for shopping, to attend the parish Church, local pharmacy, GP and our local bank. The applicants have stated in their EIAR (Table 2-4) that the proposed development will close the L7108 Lisheenkyle East for 5 months adding a significant diversion to access our local town. The actual disruption will in all likelihood be significantly longer due to the rocky nature of the ground, having to cross the M6 motorway at two separate locations, and the fact, that the proposed route will require gas mains safety work to be carried out at Knocknacreeva. No diversion plan, no pedestrian or cycling alternative and no emergency access assessment has been provided for the application.

Rock breaking

The applicant's Construction Methodology Reports state that a 22 tonne percussive rock breaker will be used along the cable route. We are concerned that the rock-breaking works, in close proximity to our home, boundary walls and hedges will cause structural damage. No pre-construction structural survey has been offered to us, and no vibration impact assessment has been provided for our property.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

No EMF assessment has been provided for our property. We request that modelled EMF levels be provided for all residential and agricultural receptors, with compliance with EU Recommendation 1999/519/EC confirmed as a condition of any permission.

Noise – No Baseline Survey along the Residential Corridor

No noise assessment has been carried out at our home (H91EF96). The application involves heavy rock-breaking plant operating in close proximity to occupied homes. A comparable application on the same roads (Gannow Wind Farm ACP ref no. 500493) provided a full baseline noise survey – this application has not.

Community not Consulted – engagement has failed

We were not individually contacted about the cable route through our local area Lisheenkyle East L7108. We received no information about construction impacts, noise, vibration, EMF, road closure or infringements to our property rights. No compensation or wayleave discussion has been initiated with us.

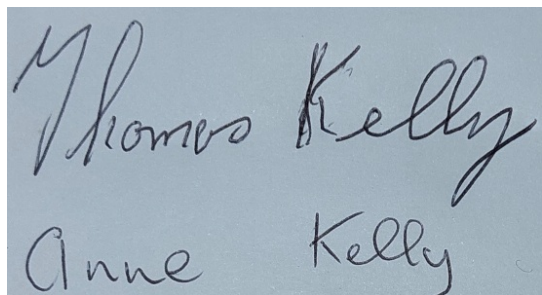
Split Applications – No Cumulative Assessment

This application (VA07.324162) covers the grid connection infrastructure without which the proposed Peaker Plant (Ref.324113) cannot operate. They are one project, yet Bord Gais Energy has separated them into two planning applications which means that the combined impact on our roads, environment and community has not been assessed together.

In addition, Gannow Wind Farm (ACP 500493) proposes to use the same roads with an estimated 142 HGV

movements a day...again with no combined impact assessment.

On these grounds we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission.



Thomas Kelly
Anne Kelly

